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Spratt (Am. Bot., July 1912) reports studies of several genera of the Podocarpineæ and finds root nodules on all examined. These nodules are modified lateral roots. They are produced by the infection of the meristematic tissue of the young root, by *Pseudomonas radicola*, shown to be identical in cultures with the infesting bacterium in Leguminosæ. Cultures also show these organisms capable of assimilating atmospheric nitrogen.

A PLEA FOR THE FISH

"When removing an undersized trout from your hook, always moisten your hands before grasping the fish; otherwise the dry hand will remove the slime from the back of the trout, when it is only a question of time until fungus sets in and the fish will die.

Always kill your fish that are large enough to keep, as soon as taken from the hook. This can be done by giving it a stroke with a stick on the head, back of the eyes. It will avoid all suffering and make your fish far better for table use.

The American Fisheries Society at Washington, D. C., September 21-24, 1908, recommended that the various State Commissions educate the people by every means in their power to follow the directions given about wetting the hands.

Indorsed by twenty-eight Fish and Game Commissions throughout the United States."

G. H. THOMPSON, Fish Culturist,
Superintendent of the Estes Park Fish Hatchery.

HEREDITY IN RELATION TO EUGENICS

This book, by Dr. C. B. Davenport of the Carnegie Institution, is an effort to bring together, in a form that the intelligent worker even tho not a special student of biology may comprehend, some of the results derived from our modern studies of heredity, the methods whereby these results have been reached, and certain applications of these methods to the study of human traits and thru these to human guidance. The book ought to serve in a very real way the social worker, the physician, and the teacher of general biology. Dr. Davenport is one of the leading American students of this subject.

In Chapter I on "Eugenics: Its Nature, Importance and Aims", the writer defines the scope of this new hope that the quality of the

human race may be definitely improved by proper breeding,—as definitely improved as the breeds of domestic animals have been. Unless scientific principles come to influence marriage selection, human progress will cease.

Chapter II discusses the scientific method whereby our progress is now being made in the study of heredity, and the application of this method and its results to human breeding.

In Chapter III a great mass of material relating to the inheritance of family traits is brought together. It is shown that many qualities are inherited in accordance with the Mendelian expectation. Among these are color of eyes and hair; stature; musical, artistic, literary ability; mechanical skill; memory; temperament; mental ability; insanity; criminality; many defects of body and mind leading to disease; and numerous other personal characteristics.

Chapters IV and V deal with the Geographic Distribution of Inheritable Traits as determined by barriers, migrations, etc.

Chapters VI and VII deal with concrete American instances in which individuals with marked personal characteristics have impressed in special degree the lines of descent springing from them; and instances of marked family traits which persist for generations.

In Chapter VIII the author discusses the relation of Eugenics to Euthenics,—of the heredity influences to the environmental influences in molding the future of the human race. This is a very suggestive chapter and should be appreciated by all social workers.

The concluding chapter has to do with the relation of organized society to the matter of Eugenics, both as to the studies which must be prosecuted and to the application of the result in social control.

A good bibliography and index add to the usefulness of the book.

Heredity in Relation to Eugenics, by Charles B. Davenport. Illustrated; 298 pages. Henry Holt & Co., New York. Price, \$2.00; by mail, \$2.17.

HEREDITY AND EUGENICS

This book is a composite product of several men who, among Americans, are the leaders in the recent experimental study of heredity. It contains a somewhat popularized summary of the re-